ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

Disclosed is a system for centralized transfer of cargo to and from rail cars comprising a first railway to accommodate the rail cars; a staging area; and a second railway positioned between the first railway and the staging area to accommodate a movable transfer dock; wherein the cargo is transferred between the staging area and the rail cars via the movable transfer dock. Also disclosed is a cargo container system is provided comprising a rail car having a conveyor means on the floor thereof, a palletized cargo container specifically adapted for shipping cargo in a rail car comprising a base, two side walls extending upward from the base, a platform secured to the side walls and an open top, and wherein the palletized cargo container is movable on the conveyor means.